00859

1971/09/27

MEMORANDUM

33043

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

Pam Talks

SECRET NODIS

September 27, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. KISSINGER

FROM: JOHN H. HOLDRIDGE

SUBJECT: Clearance of State Cable on Dealing with the PRG Delegation in Paris

After the recent cable clearance mix-up, I informed State as you requested that we were not to deal with the PRG delegation separately under any circumstances. Consequently, State has drafted a new outgoing cable to override its earlier one in accordance with your instructions (Tab A). It makes the following points:

-- We should not highlight the POW issue at next week's plenary since the National League's convention in Washington will have concluded by then.

-- Consequently, the questionof meeting the PRG in Paris will become academic, other than between liaison officers in the normal course of events.

-- Our policy on contacts with the PRG still apply, but we need to review it constantly in light of changing circumstances.

-- The delegation is therefore requested to "seek instructions before making an affirmative reply to any PRG approach," including the contingency the delegation raised in its incoming telegram.

-- Saigon should discuss these clarifications with the GVN Foreign Ministry.

Comment: In its latest draft, State is attempting to save some face while closing the door on any meeting with the PRG. In doing so, it has effectively reined in the delegation, although it has not told the delegation flatly that our policy is no separate meeting under any circumstances. Instead, the cable intimates that a meeting between low level members of the two delegations might be possible in the event that the PRG made a list of US POW's in South Vietnam or some other information available.

SECRET NODIS

DECLASSIFIED
Authority E012958
By AT NARA Date 3-8-00

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHI

Although State might have been more explicit, its draft cable should suffice. The delegation has been told not to agree to any PRG initiative without seeking instructions, and State itself is now well aware of your views. In addition, Embassy Saigon has already obtained the GVN's agreement to a US-PRG meeting under the circumstances the delegation raised. It would be awkward for us to tell the South Vietnamese that we had completely changed our minds just after having obtained their concurrence.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you concur in the cable at Tab A.

Approve HK Disapprove _____

DECLASSIFIED
Authority E012958
By AT NARA Date 3-8-07
REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCH

SECRET
Classification

Department of State
TELEGRAM

ORIGINATOR
COLLECT
CHARGE TO

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION: USDEL FRANCE -- IMMEDIATE
Amembassy SAIGON ""

STATE

NODIS/PARIS MEETINGS/PLUS

PARIS DELIVER OPENING OF BUSINESS

SUBJ: Dealing with PRG Delegation on Prisoners

REF: A. USDEL 15884
B. State 173769

1. With postponement of September 23 meeting, we do not rpt not wish you to highlight PW issue at next plenary, which presumably will be held September 30 and will therefore come after meeting of National League of PW/MIA Families next week.

2. In view of this change in plans, it now seems unlikely that contingency positions outlined Ref A for responding to possible counter-proposals by PRG will be needed in foreseeable future. Therefore, we assume that the question of meeting with PRG in Paris will become academic, except insofar as there may be meetings of liaison officers in

DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE	TEL. EXT.	APPROVED BY:
EA:WLCutler:ms	9/22/71	22691	EA - Mr. Sullivan

U/PW - Mr. Sieverts ~~XXXXXX~~ draft. DOD/ISA - Dr. Shields (subs)
WH -
S/S -

SECRET
Classification

FORM DS-322
4-68

DECLASSIFIED
Authority EO12958
By AT NARA Date 3-8-02
REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCH

SECRET
Classification

Department of State

TELEGRAM

DATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

DISTRIBUTION

XXXX ACTION PAGE 2

normal course of events.

3. Our basic position on contacts with PRG for sole purpose of receiving information on or arranging the release of U.S. prisoners captured in South Viet-Nam has been set forth in State 289536 of December 19, 1968; Paris 1092 of January 24, 1969; State 13135 of January 28, 1969. These general instructions still apply. Essentially, however, as far as possible meetings in Paris are concerned, the following two stipulations obtain:

A. Any contacts with PRG on PW's should relate solely to receiving information on or arranging release of U.S. prisoners captured in South Viet-Nam;

B. Any contacts with PRG in Paris would be at suitably low level (i.e., well below head of delegation).

4. Moreover, in light of changing circumstances and need to keep our policy on this question under constant review, request that you seek instructions before making affirmative reply to any PRG approach, including offer along lines

DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE	TEL. EXT.	APPROVED BY:

CLEARANCES:

SECRET
Classification

FORM DS-322 4-68

DECLASSIFIED
Authority EO 12958
By AT NARA Date 3-8-02

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

SECRET
Classification

Department of State
TELEGRAM

INDICATE
COLLECT
CHARGE TO

DISTRIBUTION

described para 4E, Ref A.

5. Saigon should discuss foregoing clarifications with Fonoff.

GP-1

END

DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE	TEL. EXT.	APPROVED BY:

CLEARANCES:

SECRET
Classification

FORM 4-68 DS-322

DECLASSIFIED
Authority EO12958
By AT NARA Date 3-8-00

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHI

DOC	RECD	LOG NBR	INITIA	ION OFF
MO DA	MO DA H			
09	09 27 14	33043		

CONDENCE PROFILE

LOG IN/OUT ONLY

DOC SOURCE/CLASS/DESC

RES ____ KISSINGER X HAIG ____

FROM: ELIOT ____ ROGERS, W ____ LAIRD, M ____ HORDRIDGE

U ____ LOU ____ C ____ S X TO ____

NO FORN ____ BUO ____ EYES ONLY ____ CODE WORD ____ SENSITIVE ____

NODIS X EXDIS ____ LIMDIS ____ RES DATA ____

SUBJECT: Clearance of State Cable on Contacts w/ PRG delegation in Paris

REFERENCE: S/S ____ OTHER ____ NOT XEROXED ____

APP'TS: PRES ____ HAK ____ TALKER ____ MEMCON ____ DATE REQ. ____

SECRETARIAT DISTRIBUTION/ACTION

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION

	ACTION	INFO	REC CY
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/HAIG			
STAFF SECRETARY			
FAR EAST			
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA			
NR EAST/NORTH AFRICA			
EUROPE/CANADA			
LATIN AMERICA			
UNITED NATIONS			
ECONOMIC			
SCIENTIFIC			
LR PLANNING			
PROGRAM ANALYSIS			
NSC PLANNING			
CONGRESSIONAL			

ACTION REQUIRED

MEMO FOR HAK ..... ( )
MEMO FOR PRES. ..... ( )
REPLY FOR ____ SIGNATURE ..... ( )
FOR DISTRIBUTION/DISPATCH ..... ( )
MEMO ____ TO ____ ..... ( )
RECOMMENDATIONS ..... ( )
JOINT MEMO ..... ( )
REFER TO STATE ..... ( )
ANY ACTION NECESSARY ..... ( )
CONCURRENCE ..... ( )
DUE DATE:

COMMENTS: *(Including Special Instructions)*

INTERNAL/INTERIM ROUTING

DATE	FROM	TO	S	ACTION REQUIRED	CY TO
0927	Hord	HAK	X	Decision (0928)	
				HAIG Called State	

Done 9/29 By HAIG

DISPOSITION

CROSS REF WITH ____ NOTIFY State DATE ____

SEE LOG ____ DISPATCH LETTER/MEMO ____

JOINED BY LOG ____ COPIES: (AS MARKED ABOVE) ____

SPECIAL FILE RQMT: ____ SA, ____ HP, ____ HM

SPECIAL DISPOSITION COMMENTS: ____

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: YES ____ NO ____

MICROFILM DATA

DO ____ INIT ____ DATE ____

OCT 04 1971

ORIG) TO) NSC ____ PAF ____ WHC ____ SUBF ____

DECLASSIFIED
Authority EO12958
By AT NARA Date 3-8-07

* GPO: 1971—4,2-412

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCH